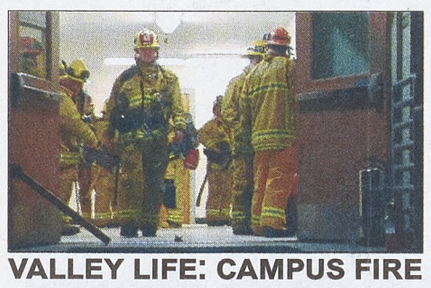
2-28-19

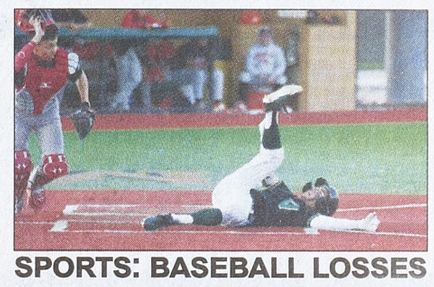


VALLEY LIFE: CAMPUS FIRE

THE HUMANITIES BUILDING FILLED WITH SMOKE FROM A TRASH CAN FIRE.

the VALLEY STAR

The Independent Student Newspaper of Los Angeles Valley College



SPORTS: BASEBALL LOSSES

THE MEN'S BASEBALL TEAM SUFFERED A 10 GAME LOSING STREAK.

VOLUME 89, ISSUE 1 | VALLEY STAR FEBRUARY 28, 2019 | WWW.THEVALLEYSTARNEWS.COM

Heavy rain hits LA

A rainy winter caused roads to be flooded and homeowners to evacuate.

AIMEE MARTINEZ
STAFF WRITER

Several weeks of heavy rain battered the Los Angeles area as officials evacuated homes due to mudslides and flooding.

As of early February, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works has calculated a total of 16.2 inches of rainfall since early December. In Woodland Hills, precipitation was over two inches, according to the National Weather Service. The rainfall resulted in Topanga Canyon and the Pacific Coast Highway being closed due to mud and rock slides.

Homes near the Woolsey Fire burn areas were told to evacuate by Malibu officials. Those evacuations have since been lifted, but homeowners were told to return with caution as the canyon roads were still at risk of debri flow and mudslides.

During the storms, LA County warned drivers to slow down and stay alert while driving in the rain. Those who were homeless were encouraged to seek refuge from the rain at the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) winter shelters.

"With more #LARain, please help spread the word that Winter Shelters are open 24/7 through Tuesday so we can make sure our neighbors experiencing homelessness are safe and warm during this storm," tweeted Mayor Eric Garcetti.

At Valley College, the heavy rain has delayed campus concrete work and caused slight leakage in some of the school's buildings. According to Director of College Facilities Tom Lopez, both the areas by the Campus Center and roundabout were set to be complete before the spring semester. The bookstore and the art, music, community services and the construction project team buildings have also been affected by the rain with minor leaking.

Despite some hazards and damages, the weather has proved beneficial for California's drought. According to the Drought Monitor, in Southern California the conditions have improved from moderate drought to abnormally dry. The conditions of the Los Angeles Basin have also changed from severe drought to abnormally dry. Additionally, the LACDPW reported that the LA County stormwater facilities have captured 3.9 billion gallons of rainwater for groundwater recharge.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association stated the heavy rains resulted from counter-clockwise winds surrounding storms in Hawaiian islands that strengthened the atmospheric river soaking California. NOAA defines atmospheric rivers as relatively long, narrow regions in the atmosphere that transport most of the water vapor outside of the tropics often releasing it in the form of snow or rain.

Despite the past couple days being an average high temperature of 60 degrees, the National Weather Service predicts a potential for heavy rainfall and warns of possible urban flooding and power outages for this weekend.

Wine fundrasier hits the right notes

A wine-tasting held on campus by the LAVC Foundation raised funds for both the music department and the library.

GABRIEL ARIZON
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A wine-tasting fundraiser was held Feb. 22 in the hopes to raise money for Valley College's Steinway Piano Campaign and the Library Fund.

The LAVC Foundation hosted approximately 52 attendees in the Valley library to enjoy award-winning wine served by the Hoi Polloi Winery, snack on light h'oerderves and enjoy light guitar music performed by Louie Kang, the Broadcasting Club's vice president. Each guest payed a $50 entrance fee, with the total amount going towards the school library and the music department.

"The thought behind it was if you have the best equipment in the world, hopefully that will attract people to come and use it."
- Christian Nova

"We appreciate your support, talent, treasure and time, however you can help LA Valley College grow," said Los Angeles Community College District Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez. "You are the difference, the margin of excellence, between an adequate education experience and an excellent one."

VALLEY STAR | GABRIEL ARIZON

FUNDRAISER- Interim President Denise Noldon greets the fundraiser attendees in the student library.

The funds raised will go towards helping the school pay off four Steinway pianos, which were acquired a year ago through a lease-to-own agreement between Steinway & Sons and the foundation. According to information provided by the foundation, the school has already replaced 18 of its 22 pianos over the past three years by using equipment funds and buying Boston pianos, which are made by Steinway & Sons.

"The foundation committed a large portion of money so that we could become a Steinway school," foundation President Patricia Ballew said. "Most of the pianos were purchased with bond money, but to become a Steinway school, additional pianos were needed, so we assisted with that."

With the current pianos it possesses - including the four on lease - Valley has become the 200th All-Steinway school in the world, according to the foundation. The campaign is looking to raise around $340,000 to pay off the lease, which it is doing by looking for prospective donors to purchase "keys" that are representative of the piano's 88 keys. An ivory key goes for $3,500, an ebony key costs $5,000, and a set of three ivory keys costs $10,000. A donor can also sponsor a piano, which can go from $15,000 to $40,000.

"We are starting to do this so we can start cultivating relationships and get folks to start donating to the Foundation."
- Raul Castillo

"Besides needing new instruments, because ours were pretty old, the thought behind it was if you have the best equipment in the world, hopefully that will attract people to come and use it," said Valley Music Department Chair Christian Nova. "[The students] love it, of course. Everything's new, they sound great and they're not banged up and beat up."

While the music department will get 90 percent of the proceeds, the remaining 10 percent will go towards the library. Xiao Belendorf, the Valley library department chair, hopes the extra funds can go towards helping the students, like buying pencils and scantrons, and even making posters that can advertise the library's services.

"A lot of funding we have is very restrictive. We cannot just pay for a nice poster," Belendorf said. "I'm hoping this event will be the start of something, because we don't really have many events on campus for fundraising."

The foundation held a similar wine-tasting event last year, though this is the first time they held it on campus. Executive Director of the foundation Raul Castillo hopes that these events will bring in people that can donate money that will ultimately help students.

"We are starting to do this so we can start cultivating relationships and get folks to start donating to the foundation," Castillo said. "The foundation does so many worthwhile things on campus, from awarding scholarships to helping out various campus projects ... so we need the money to do that."

Last year, the doundation awarded 347 students scholarships that totaled $186,000, with each individual one ranging from $250 to $1,000. To find out how to apply and what the guidelines are, call (818) 947-2619.

VALLEY STAR | SOLOMON SMITH

LEADER- Denise Noldon has experience as temporary leadership.

New Valley leader steps in

Dr. Denise Noldon holds down the fort and prepares Valley College for its next caretaker.

SOLOMON SMITH
MANAGING EDITOR

Vice President of Administrative Services, Mike Lee, gave up the president's chair Monday to the new interim president Dr. Denise Noldon, an experienced executive who has previously been in this position.

After retiring in July 2018, Noldon was probably expecting to enjoy her free time by indulging in some of her favorite activities, traveling and reading. However, Los Angeles Community College District Chancellor Francisco C. Rodriguez cut her retirement short by asking for her help. According to a memo from the LACCD Board of Trustees, her current contract covers Feb. 11 to June 30 for which she will receive $20,678, a relocation reimbursement of $10,000 and a $500 monthly car allowance.

"Whatever one or two things I can get done over the course of time that I'm here that would make the transition better, that is what I seek to be part of my very short legacy here."
- Denise Noldon

Noldon started in education and administration early in her career and has been thoroughly prepared for her new position as interim president of Valley College. She was previously the interim president of Los Angeles Southwest College for almost two years.

"I think I bring years of experience in working at the executive and community college level," said Noldon.

She has all the qualifications that a school could want: interim vice chancellor for student services and special programs for the California Community Colleges, a doctorate in education and her two years as interim president of Southwest was during one of the schools most challenging periods. At the time, Southwest was undergoing a probation period for its accreditation.

"Because of the situation the college was in, with respect to accreditation," said Noldon, "... it made sense that the person who started the process be there when the accreditation team came back."

With her years of experience in education and administration, Noldon has often found herself in positions poised to help administrations in need and is proud of her time at both the community college and state level. She enjoyed her job at the state as vice chancellor, where she was able to participate in the beginnings of the then new student equity and workforce programs.

As the new temporary leader of Valley, she is responsible for not only keeping the school going, but also helping make the transition of the new president as smooth as possible. She is already familiar with some of the faculty and says she "trusts and respects" the staff at Valley and wants to "help in any way she can."

"This is the second week of classes and so I want to be respectful of people trying to get in and get settled," said Noldon. "We will more than likely, before the end of the month, set something up. I look forward to meeting the student body."

Chancellor Rodriguez has stated that he is confident the position will be filled on time and Noldon has made it clear that this is short term.

"Whatever one or two things I can get done over the course of time that I'm here that would make the transition better," said Noldon, "that is what I seek to be part of my very short legacy here."

ON CAMPUS

February 28

The Historical Museum is holding its first open house of the semester at 1 p.m. in the Library & Academic Resource Center (LARC) 204.

March 3

Women's Softball will be playing a home game against Southwestern College in the softball field at 11 a.m.

March 4

The Academic Resoure Center is offering a "Academic Reading & Test Taking" Workshop at 1 p.m. in LARC 212.

March 7

The Theater Department is holding the opening night of "Way of the World" in the Horseshoe Theater at 7 p.m.

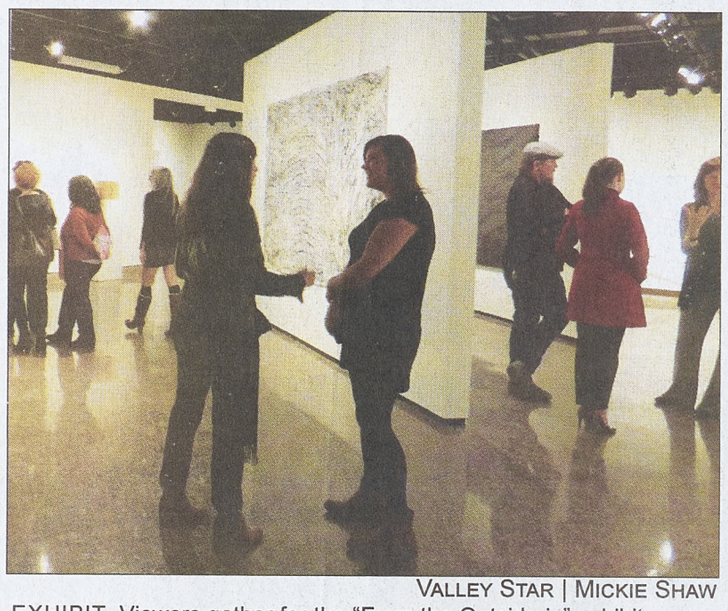
These features and more can be found in full @ www.thevalleystarnews.com

Follow up-to-date campus news and events on Twitter @ValleyStarNews

VALLEY LIFE

Artists explore meaning of landscapes

Valley's new month-long "From the Outside in" art show challenges artists to illustrate their own vision of the outdoors.



VALLEY STAR | MICKIE SHAW

EXHIBIT- Viewers gather for the "From the Outside in" exhibit.

MICKIE SHAW
MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Valley College's new three-person art show "From the Outside in" is a contemporary landscape show where the theme is interpreted by each artist.

"Even though they are all different mediums, they all really flow together and speak to each other in a really nice way," said curator Sam Hopple.

Los Angeles artist Katie Shapiro's pictures are all of impact craters, the landscapes are scarred with giant round depressions. One picture is decorated with cut outs of colored gels. The colors contrast with the light grey texture of the crater.

"For me, it's about finding resonance with the landscape, so I think about it in an energetic way."

- Allison Peck

"I am interested in impact craters. I like the idea that with an impact to the earth it leaves a mark, but impacts to us like emotional impacts- there are no physical marks," said Shapiro. "They are all just layers in our psyche. There's sort of a poetic-ness to that."

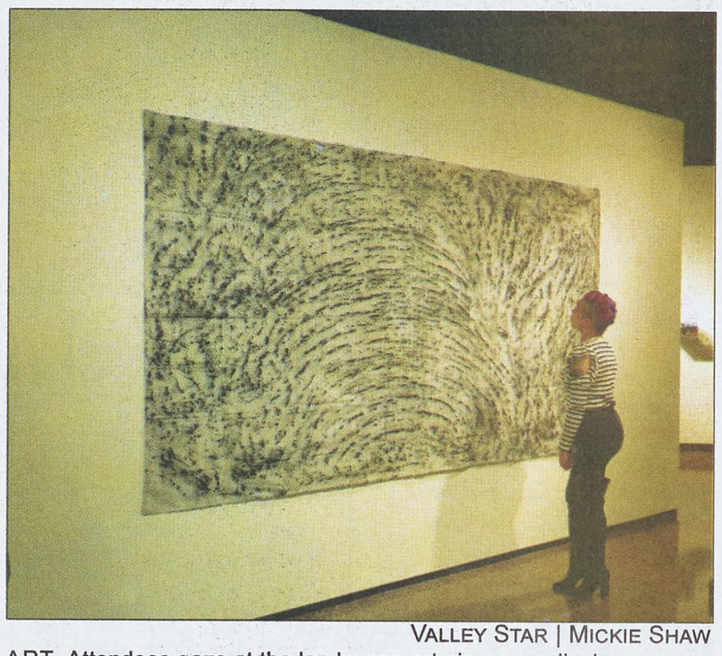
New York-based artist Hunter Buck made a six-by-nine canvas while in Hawaii that covers one of the gallery's egg shell white walls. Its black charcoal rubbings covers the entire white canvas; the circular markings are impressions from a lava flow.

"This is a rubbing of a lava flow from the 1500s," said Hunter. "I thought I would document these lava flows ... by making a physical print and painting from the material in the landscape."

Eight rectangular translucent boxes placed in a horizontal line along one wall document performances by LA-based artist Allison Peck. Each side of a box has a separate image. The box's display mechanism is like a zoetrope, where the viewer is seeing multiple images at once.

"I'm trying to show in a way I'm not separate from the landscape, I'm sort of moving with it," Peck said. "For me, it's about finding resonance with the landscape, so I think about it in an energetic way."

"From the Outside in" is a journey through the landscape of the mind were the viewer can experience the artists' individual interpretations of landscapes. The eclectic exhibition will run from Feb. 13 through March 14.



VALLEY STAR | MICKIE SHAW

ART- Attendees gaze at the landscape art pieces on display.

VALLEY STAR | LEE VILLANUEVA

ASHES- A trash can on fire caused classes in the Humanities Building to be evacuated.

Fire lights up at Valley

Several Valley College classes were evacuated due to a restroom fire.

MEGAN JACKSON
NEWS EDITOR

Fire alarms echoed throughout Valley College's Humanities Building Monday night signaling students to evacuate; the root of the fire— a trash can.

A student returned to his English 101 class at approximately 7:45 p.m., warning his classmates and professor of an apparent fire in the men's restroom. According to LAVC's Deputy Saldivar, the emergency protocol is to pull the fire alarm and contact the campus Sheriff's department. However, the professor violated protocol and called 911. Roughly 15 minutes after the fire was reported, the alarm began to sound, causing everyone to evacuate the smoke filled halls.

"I think somebody may have put either a cigarette out or something like that. I don't think this was intentionally set."

- Deputy Saldivar

The LAVC Sheriff's Department received an indicator off the fire alarm and sent units over to the scene. Upon arrival, they saw the fire was contained in a small trash can; they were able to put it out with an extinguisher. There was no damage to the building and nobody was injured.

"I think somebody may have put either a cigarette out or something like that. I don't think it was intentionally set," said Saldivar. The Team Leader of the Sheriff's Department continued stating, "Anytime there's a fire alarm that goes off, students should follow normal protocol by exiting the building and follow any instruction given to them by their professors or campus personnel."

However, further investigation must be completed to verify the cause of the fire. Although the fire did not cause physical damage, it left a crowd full of faculty and students in a panic.

"In the height of an unknown climate one is left to wonder what is truly happening. Is it a fire or is someone trying to get you to run out and be slaughtered," said Valley Star staff writer, Lee Villanueva, who was auditing the English 101 class that night.

This story will continue to be updated as we learn more information.

THE FACTS

Fires

According to The Center for Campus Fire Safety, 92 fatal fires have occurred on a campus, in Greek housing or in off-campus housing within three miles of a college since 2000, resulting in 132 deaths. Thirty-eight of those fires were deemed an accident - either from smoking, cooking or candles - resulting in 51 deaths.

BSU hosts BBQ cookout

The Black Scholars sponsored Club Day had a very successful turnout.

JOCELINE RODRIGUEZ
STAFF WRITER

The Black Scholars Union handed out resource information and free food during a cookout in the Student Union Plaza for Black Heritage Month.

"The voice is quiet for black students," said Terrance Carter, who was working at the information table of the Black Scholars. "The mission of the Black Scholars is to inform people of the opportunities and resources available on campus for us, from free printing, counselors helping with your college plan and when having trouble getting a job."

The BSU set up shop at 9 a.m. last week, barbequing burgers, hot dogs and chicken for students and faculty who came out to show support. The club and the ASU held their tents nearby to give out campus information and to find potential recruits. The four-hour long event - set with several board games, music and an inflated skee ball station - attracted dozens of people to the area to enjoy the atmosphere.

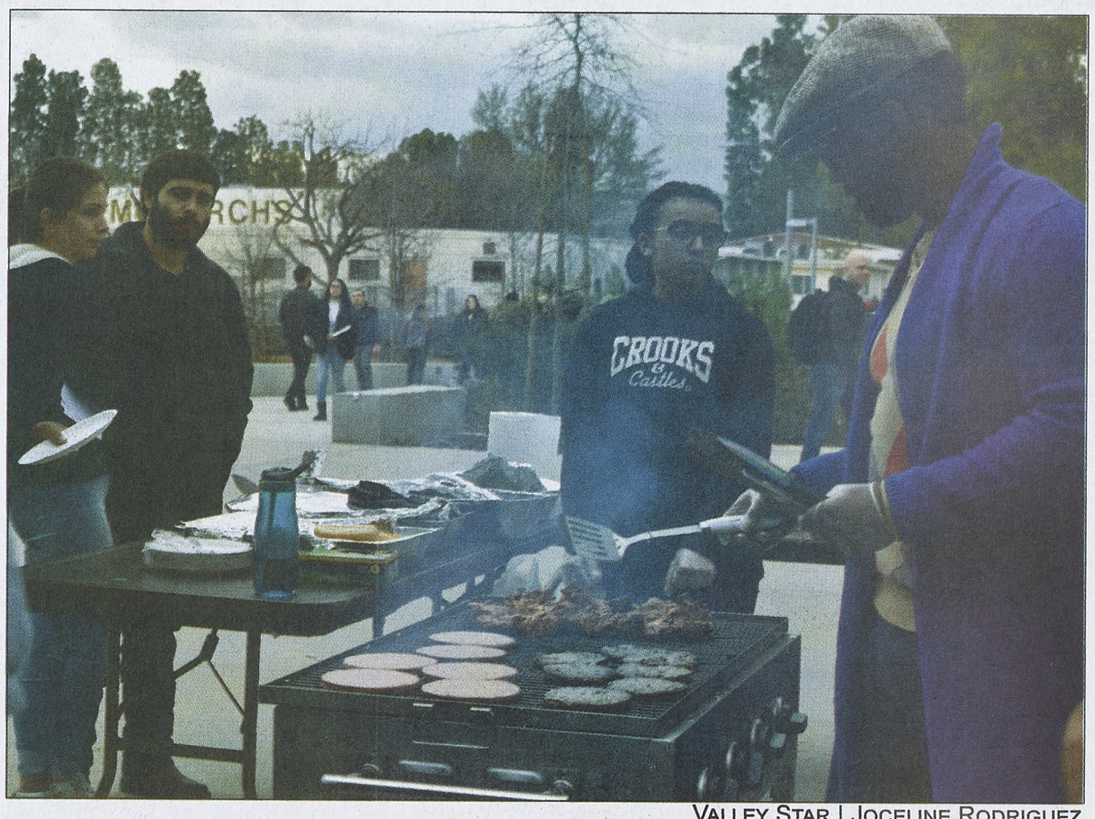
"This has been one of the busiest events we'll had all school year as we help the Black Student Union at this month's club day," said ASU member Alina De La Garza. "Whenever you see the green tent, we're here, for future events."

"I didn't know about this event until someone told me in class an hour prior," said Valley student Gissella Vasquez as she grabbed a bite to eat before heading to work. "I was walking to my car, I heard the music and it was calling my name."

With dozens stopping by to show support for the BSU, students had the opportunity to interact with each other, sharing their passions and interests.

"It's a good way to bring everyone together," said business marketing major Jalin Lewis who attended the event and played Skee Ball with his friends.

The cookout was the one of the first events the BSU held in honor of Black History Month. Later events included a comedy show that featured famous comedians Jackson McQueen, Kennelia Stradwick and Kristal Adams, and a panel discussion for the film, "The Hate U Give."



VALLEY STAR | JOCELINE RODRIGUEZ

BBQ- The Black Scholars Union barbequing burgers and chicken for some hungry students.

OPINION

Awards show cuts time in all the wrong places

Even though the show must go on, cutting away from talent at awards shows is not the answer to save time.

MEGAN TAYLOR
NEWS EDITOR

Nowadays, award shows complain about a lack of air time, yet they feel as if they run all night. Their solution: cut off celebrities mid-acceptance speech and possibly eliminate categories from the telecast.

In the past 30 years, awards shows have gradually increased in run-time. For example, the Grammy Awards run closer to four hours in length which is a big jump from the traditional three hour ceremony. Given the chance, Hollywood would celebrate its success all day, but people lose interest in lengthy ceremonies which results in lower ratings.

The Academy Awards recently decided to present four Oscars during the commercial breaks this year. The categories being booted from the on-air ceremony include cinematography, film editing, live-action short, makeup and hairstyling. Many directors (Martin Scorsese, Christopher Nolan, Spike Lee, Quentin Tarantino) and actors (Jon Hamm, Brad Pitt, Frances McDormand, Jude Law) protested the decision in a letter to the Academy.

The note states, "Relegating these essential cinematic crafts to lesser status in this 91st Academy Awards ceremony is nothing less than an insult to those of us who have devoted our lives and passions to our chosen profession. When the recognition of those responsible for the creation of outstanding cinema is being diminished by the very institution whose purpose it is to protect it, then we are no longer upholding the spirit of the Academy's promise to celebrate film as a collaborative art form."

Along with the letter, a fan petition going around that has gathered nearly 10,000 signatures to make the Academy broadcast all of the awards during the ceremony. The Academy reversed their unpopular decision and all categories will be announced on air; rightfully so.

The Grammy's is the biggest night of the year for the music industry and the longest. This year's ceremony featured tributes to Dolly Parton and Diana Ross, along with performances by artists such as Shawn Mendes, Miley Cyrus, Travis Scott and Jennifer Lopez. This awards show is about celebrating music and the artists behind the catchy tunes, yet instead of cutting out categories, they cut off artists during their acceptance speeches. Dua Lipa (Best New Artist) and Drake are two artists who were wrongfully cut off mid-thought.

Lady Gaga is one celebrity who openly fought back against the music tactic employed by awards shows to hurry and finish up an acceptance speech. Although Gaga is not the first celebrity to talk through this music, she was not going to let anyone take time away from her shining moment at this year's Critics Choice Awards.

"It's okay, I can still do this with a piano background," joked Gaga. The audience unanimously laughed and applauded the popstar as she continued on with her acceptance speech.

There are many other solutions awards shows can employ to cut down their running time. For music shows like the Grammys, cap each artist's performance to a limit of one song or a short medley of their hits. It is understandable to have a wide genre of artists perform at the Grammys. However, setting a limit on how many artists perform during the awards will help significantly with the pacing and overall time of the show.

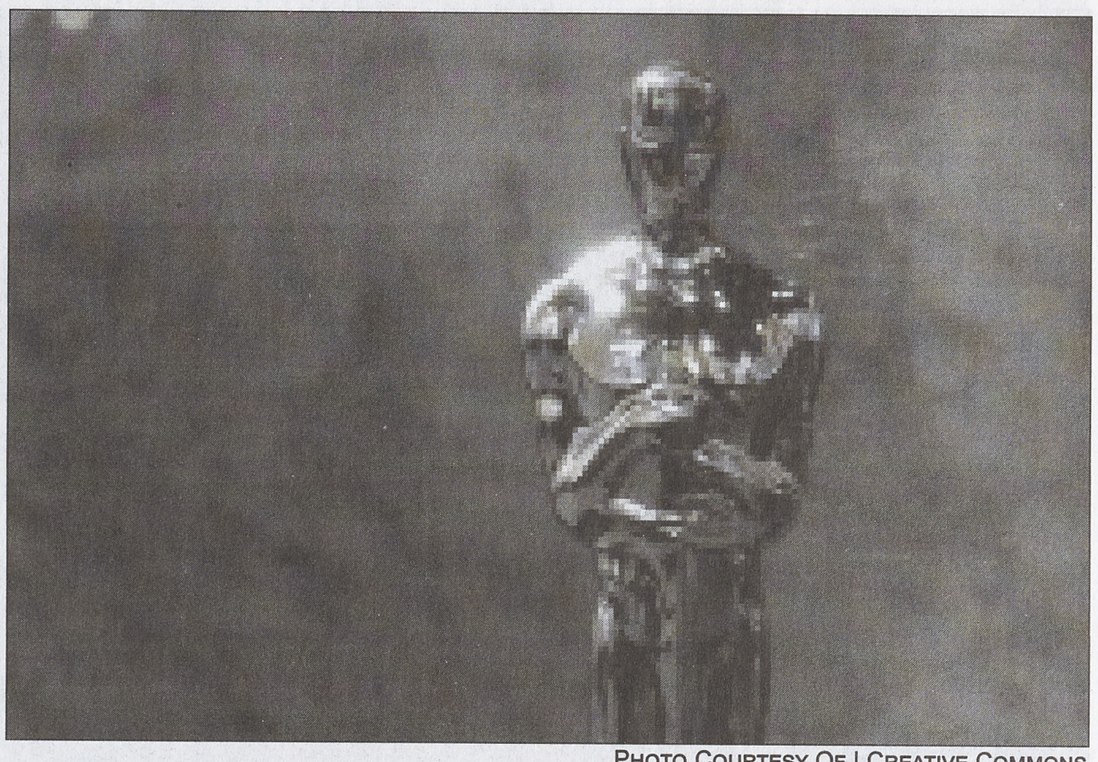


PHOTO COURTESY OF | CREATIVE COMMONS

AWARDS- The Oscars Award Show is just one of the many shows receiving critics after cutting catego-

Reducing time for presenters during film and television award shows can significantly reduce the time of the show. Celebrity appearances during awards shows increases views and ratings. However, presenters' "skits" can take away time from the winners acceptance speeches. Instead of making it a performance, they should just present and move along.

One Way or Another: One question, two opposing viewpoints

Efron makes serial killer into sex symbol

Casting Zac Efron as Ted Bundy romanticizes the horrific acts committed by the serial killer.

MEGAN TAYLOR
NEWS EDITOR

America's most notorious serial killer, Ted Bundy, is next on the long list of criminals to have a TV series or movie dedicated to unraveling their horrifying crimes.

"Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile," starring Zac Efron as Bundy, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and received mixed reactions. Many people were excited to see Hollywood heartthrob Efron in a role he is not typically cast in. However, many feel that having the handsome actor portray Bundy is glorifying the monstrous acts he committed in the 70's.

It makes sense to cast someone that a good amount of women would find to be attractive because Bundy's charm and seduction was used as a tool to lure women. However, the trailer alone shows way too many instances of Efron's wide smiles, devilish winks and his notorious shirtless shots. This is a film about a killer, not a male model.

Netflix took to Twitter last week to address the negative backlash they are receiving. "I've seen a lot of talk about Ted Bundy's alleged hotness and would like to gently remind everyone that there are literally THOUSANDS of hot men on the service — almost all of whom are not convicted serial murderers."

The streaming site missed the point that Bundy is an average looking man at best in comparison to Efron, who was featured in Sexiest Man Alive 2017. Although Efron has proven time and again that he has the talent to take on a role such as Bundy, his presence in this film takes away from the message that Bundy was a sociopath, kidnapper, rapist, burglar and necrophile who assaulted and murdered numerous young women.

Along with the debatable choice of casting Efron, the film is told from the perspective of Bundy's longtime girlfriend, Elizabeth Kloepfer. Telling the story from the point of view of a woman who was blindly in love with Bundy is questionable.

> **"Why keep rubbing our face in it all the time? It's very disgusting to me."**
> *- Debra Jean Kent*

Portrayed by Lily Collins, she describes Bundy with such admiration: "When I feel his love, I feel like I'm on top of the world." Yes, it provides us with an insight of how Bundy made women feel, but it also makes light of the very tragic events that happened.

Family and friends of Bundy's victims are not thrilled with the murders of their loved ones being put in the spotlight yet again. Although roughly 40 years have passed since Bundy's crime spree, it is not something anyone wants to revisit.

"Why keep rubbing our face in it all the time? It's very hard to deal with and when they keep bringing it up and putting it up," said Belva Kent, the mother of 17-year-old victim Debra Jean Kent in an interview with PEOPLE. "It's very disgusting to me."

An alternative or addition to these real crime films should be a documentary focusing on the victims. This option allows for the story of Bundy to be told, but will also remind viewers that they are watching a film tackling real life events.

Focusing on all of the victims, each of which had friends, families, and bright futures ahead of them, reduces the possibility of glorifying Bundy instead of depicting him as the monster that he is.

Zac Efron is killer in his new movie

Even guys as hot as Zac Efron can be serial killers.

TATE COAN
ONLINE EDITOR

The unique perspective of the new Ted Bundy movie is exactly the wake-up call the public needs.

The new film "Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil, and Vile" directed by Joe Berlinger, portrays the life of the notorious serial killer Ted Bundy, played by Zac Efron, and shows us that murderers do not always match up with the preconceived ideas we have of them.

In the trailer, Bundy and his longtime girlfriend, Elizabeth Kloepfer - played by Lily Collins - are shown as a normal couple: kissing, cooking and interacting with her child, whom Bundy refers to as Monkey. That illustration is then contrasted with a shot of Bundy hitting a victim with a crowbar and later dragging a body through the woods. This depiction of Bundy has angered many people on the internet who claim the movie is romanticizing Bundy, when that is far from the truth.

According to IMDb, the movie illustrates Bundy's life from the perspective of his girlfriend, who falls victim to his manipulation. She fell in love with him, which is why the movie portrays him as someone to fall in love with. Essentially, this is the story of how Kloepfer became his victim, which is an important perspective to tell. She didn't go into the relationship thinking he was a murderer because he convinced her otherwise. It's the ultimate narrative of an abusive relationship.

According to Biography.com, Kloepfer wrote a book where she describes herself as a shy and lonely single mother. She desperately wanted a father figure for her daughter, Tina, who could take care of the two of them.

> **"Looking back at the impact on the victim and how we became seduced by a serial killer really is why I wanted to make this film."**
> *- Joe Berlinger*

"I handed Ted my life and said, 'Here. Take care of me.' He did in a lot of ways," said Kloepfer in her book, "but I became more and more dependent upon him. When I felt his love, I was on top of the world; when I felt nothing from Ted, I felt that I was nothing."

In an interview with IMDb, Berlinger said, "Looking at the impact on the victim and how we become seduced by a serial killer really is just why I wanted to make the film."

Bundy was a young, white, well-mannered law student who grew up in a seemingly average family and "didn't look like anybody's notion of somebody who would tear apart young girls," according to Stephen Michaud during an interview for the Netflix series, "Conversations with a Killer: The Ted Bundy Tapes."

These things sound similar to the things said about rapists when their victims come forward: But he's such a nice guy. The belief that all criminals and murderers can't be good looking or seem nice is dangerous. Murders aren't terrible people in all actions of their life. They get coffee, hold doors open for people, have pets, children, families, jobs and interact with the real world like many other normal people. Thinking otherwise is naive and exactly what Bundy preyed on.

The film does not glorify Bundy, but shows how a man fooled the people close to him as well as the whole world. This portrayal shows the audience that these so-called "monsters" are not always unattractive men hiding in bushes, tripping over their words. They are sometimes charming and good-looking people that you've let into your life, who you think you can trust until they break you.

VALLEY VIEW | WHAT IS YOUR IMPRESSION OF THE OSCARS NOT HAVING A HOST?

TEXT BY ALANA AIMAQ | PHOTOS BY APET SUKIASYAN

"I think the Oscars were more fluid, but it didn't change much. It definitely saved time."
-KEOSHA WILLIAMS

"I didn't think it needed a host. I do think Black Panther should have won more awards."
-DARIUS GRANT

"Nothing specific changed, it may have been more boring. Without the host, it wasn't as entertaining."
- JOHNATHAN CORDERO

"There was no host? I didn't even notice. It was quicker this time around, less people to cut off their speeches."
-MIKE DERDERIAN

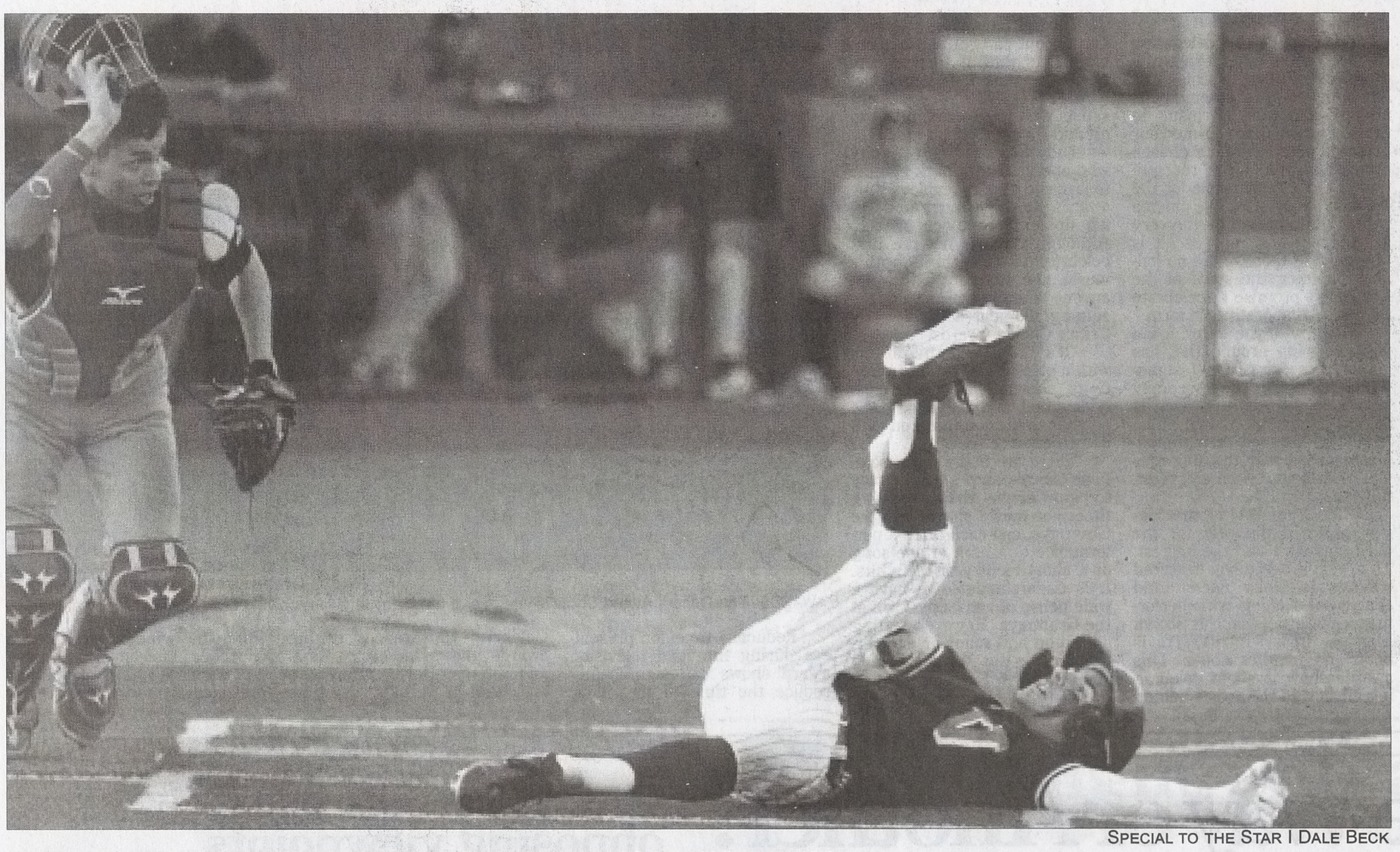
"It was boring. Remember Chris Rock? He was hilarious! They should have had him; and more jokes."
- CLAUDINE VERDIER

EDITORS NOTE

The views expressed on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Valley Star, its instructors, editors, staff or those of Los Angeles Valley College, its administration, faculty, staff or students.

A rough start has the Monarchs down in the den

A 3-0 start fizzles as the Monarchs lose their last 10 games; the coaching staff and players think they can turn it around.



SPECIAL TO THE STAR I DALE BECK

HOME- Monarch, Brett Morien, avoids getting hit by a pitch agaisnt Imperial College. Valley wins 15-6.

JOSEPH GONZALEZ
STAFF WRITER

The Monarchs started off the season 3-0 showing promising signs to a great year. Since then, they have lost 10 straight games and have been outscored 107 runs to 40.

"During this 0-10 stretch, we have had plenty of opportunities to win games, just missing a couple hits in key situations," said pitcher Giovanni Chaidez.

The coaching staff and players worked hard this offseason to build a winning program. Continued weight training sessions and long days on the field, combined with their daily routine is how they hope to turn things around.

"Nothing has to change. As long as we continue to work hard everyday, never give up and believe in one another, nothing needs to change," said Assistant Coach Ariel Adut.

Hitting streaks or consecutive shutouts can be part of a good game. However, the Monarchs have had no luck in either. The pitching staff has posted a combined 7.69 earned run average and .246 batting average; neither of those stats will lead them to success this year.

"Everyone needs to know what we are all capable of and know we are all great enough to get this turned around and stick to the plan," said sophomore Adrian Campos.

The mind of the team cannot go weak and must stay on track. This message has been relayed down from the coaching staff to all the players. The Valley coaching staff is filled with vast amounts of experience; the coaches know what it takes to winmaintaining a positive mindset.

"We need to keep grinding away, keep working hard everyday," said Adut. "Stay positive and there is still plenty of time to turn it around!"

Losing can come with a lot of negatives on the surface, but the team is using those losses to learn more about each other and to improve themselves.

"What I have learned is that we have a group of guys that continue to want to get better," said Chaidez. "A group of guys that are committed to figuring this thing out and do whatever it takes to turn this season around."

Twenty-nine games remain on the schedule and 20 of those are for the Western State South title. These games will determine if the Monarchs get into the playoffs and get a chance to compete for a state title, though Valley has not won a league since 2012.

"This team is what makes me most excited for the rest of the season. I'm excited for this group to figure it out and play the baseball we know we can," said Chaidez.

UPDATE: The Monarchs broke their losing streak Feb. 19 beating LA Harbor College 7-3, but lost 6-11 to Rio Hondo College the next day.

A look ahead to Monarchs spring 2019 sports season

With the spring season around the corner we can expect great things from our basketball, baseball, and softball teams.

VICENTE VITELA
STAFF WRITER

The spring semester will have a lot in store for Monarchs athletics for both the men's and women's teams as they will look to establish themselves as sports powerhouses.

Lady Monarch's basketball team is headed by Head Coach Monica Hang, who led the team to a second straight Western State Conference title. The team looks to repeat its success from last year, which saw them achieve a 10-0 record in the conference and 21-9 overall. The team will carry five sophomores and five freshmen, with two of those freshmen transferring from out of state (Texas, Minnesota). If the last two years are any indication, this team will be well coached and ready for any competition it will face during the season.

Lady Monarch's softball Head Coach Greg Venger returns for his sophomore year at Valley College. Last year's team led the league in home runs with 46 and was ranked 1st overall in on base, and slugging percentage. However, despite an amazing 23-13 record, it still was not good enough for the Monarchs to earn a playoff spot and that is something that this year's team will try to accomplish. With rumblings of new transfers and fresh recruits, it is safe to say that a sophomore slump isn't likely in the cards for Coach Venger.

The Men's basketball team who went 10-16 last year and seek to improve on this. With Head Coach Virgil Watson this year managing a young squad with only three returning freshmen, he looks to have his work cut out for him. Coach Watson, however, is an experienced coach and knows the game well enough to be able to lead this team to a possible Western State Conference Title.

Valley's Baseball team last year had a few bright spots in what was a disappointing season that saw the Monarch's go 13-26. The few bright spots were the teams .367 on base percentage and their .945 fielding percentage. Some of the major downsides were the teams 6.24 ERA and their .254 batting average. This team led by Head Coach Dave Mallas, who has been at the helm for over a decade, will look to restore this team to its playoff glory.

If you are a fan of Monarch athletics than the spring 2019 sports will certainly have its fair share of stories, and surprises. Stay tuned for another great year of sports.

LADY MONARCHS

Feb. 27, Valley will enter the first round of play-offs. Location TBA.

March 1-2, Valley will enter the SoCal Regional Semi-Finals. Location TBA.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Feb. 27, Valley will enter the first round of play-offs against Ventura College. The away game will start at 7 p.m.

This game is part of the SoCal Regional Playoffs.

MEN'S BASEBALL

Feb. 28, Valley will play against Pierce at 2 p.m.

March 2, Valley will play against Mission at Mission.

March 5, Valley will play against West LA at 2 p.m.

THE VALLEY STAR I APET SUKIASYAN

TOP- CAITLIN PINEDA TROTS TO HOME AFTER HITTING A TWO-RUN HOME RUN TO LEFT FIELD.
BOTTOM- CATCHER DESTINY VELASQUEZ HELPS PAINT THE CORNER FOR A SRTIKE.

The Valley Star

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF
GABRIEL ARIZON
MONSERRAT SOLIS

LAYOUT EDITOR
MONSERRAT SOLIS

VALLEY LIFE EDITOR
GABRIEL ARIZON

MANAGING EDITOR
PHOTO EDITOR
SOLOMON SMITH

NEWS EDITOR
MEGAN TAYLOR

OPINION EDITOR
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR
SAVANNAH SIMMONS

ONLINE EDITOR
TATE COAN

MULTIMEDIA EDITOR
MICKIE SHAW

STAFF WRITERS
ALANA AIMAQ
BRIDGET BARNETT
JOSEPH GONZALEZ
KIMBERLY LINARES
AIMEE MARTINEZ
JERRY OUGH
JOCELINE RODRIGUEZ
DEVIN SMITH
LEE VILLANUEVA
VICENTE VITELA

PHOTOGRAPHERS
GABRIEL ARIZON
MICKIE SHAW
SOLOMON SMITH
MONSERRAT SOLIS
APET SUKIASYUN

ADVISER
BILL DAUBER

GOT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR?

Letters to the editor can be sent to: editor@lavalleystar.com or submitted online at www.lavalleystar.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

the VALLEY STAR
The Independent Student Newspaper of Los Angeles Valley College

Advertisement

When Preventeza™ Emergency Contraceptive
is your plan a, you don't need a plan b.
NDC 11509-0067-1
See New Warning
1 TABLET
1 STEP
ACTUAL SIZE
Preventeza™
from the makers of Vagisil® Brand
LEVONORGESTREL TABLET, 1.5 mg
EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTIVE
REDUCES CHANCE OF PREGNANCY AFTER UNPROTECTED SEX
VAGISIL® EXPERTS IN VAGINAL CARE
Not for regular birth control
Contains 1 Tablet Levonorgestrel 1.5 mg

1-in-2 women may need to use emergency contraception. And when that time comes, Preventeza™ Emergency Contraceptive from the makers of Vagisil® is here to help you take control. Use as directed within 72 hours of unprotected sex or birth control failure to help prevent pregnancy before it starts.

Not for regular birth control.

On shelves at your local
For more information visit Preventeza.com

RITE AID PHARMACY

the VALLEY STAR
The Independent Student Newspaper of Los Angeles Valley College

Moments from the 2019 Women's March

The 2019 Women's March set the tone for the year to come. Issues like fair pay, education and women's health dominated the stage. Controversies about race also plauged the movement which began to fray, but managed to survive.

What had begun as a one-off is now an annual world wide phenomenon. These are just a few photographs that illustrate the unique atmosphere of the protest.

Text and photos by Solomons Smith, Photo Editor

RIGHT- Crowds of marchers walk the streets in preparation for the main event.

BELOW- A young protester takes a photograph beneath the main stage.

ABOVE- Alo Black sings to a crowd of over 200,000 people at the main stage of the 2019 Women's March.

ABOVE- A young participant moves with the hundreds of thousands of participants as they flow down Hill Street on their way to the second mainstage in the heart of downtown Los Angeles near city hall.

ABOVE LEFT- A sign points out frustrations with women's health and gun rights.

ABOVE RIGHT- Pershing Square in downtown Los Angles hosts the start of the march.

RIGHT- Pictures of women who serve as leaders in the community are presented to inspire passersby.